

VZCZCXRO1304

PP RUEHFK RUEHKSO RUEHNAG RUEHNH
DE RUEHKO #0255 0340249

ZNR UUUUU ZZH

P 030249Z FEB 09

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0515

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

RUCPDOC/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY

RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY

RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY

RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY

RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY

INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 2229

RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 4577

RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 0093

RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 2788

RUEHOK/AMCONSUL OSAKA KOBE 6017

RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7543

RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2700

RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3575

RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3565

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

UNCLAS TOKYO 000255

SIPDIS

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CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - IRAQ

¶1. LEAD STORIES: Tuesday morning's Sankei led with the revelation by several GOJ sources that spy satellites operated by the U.S. and others have taken photos pointing to apparent preparations by North Korea for the launch of a long-range ballistic missile.

¶2. "One Step forward for Iraq" On the recent Iraqi provincial elections, the business-oriented Nikkei editorialized (2/3): "The fact that the provincial polls were completed without major confusion can be regarded as an important step in Iraq's political process.... Voters, in casting their ballots, were given a larger number of choices, as they were allowed to vote for not just candidates from political parties or groups but also independent contenders. It seems that the security situation in Iraq has been improving."

¶3. "Leap toward Reconciliation and Self-Help" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun insisted in an editorial (2/3): ".... The Iraqi government, ahead of the elections, repeatedly aired TV commercials calling for national reconciliation. This helped generate the momentum for people's participation in the political process beyond religious sectarian lines.... As the Iraqi situation is closely connected to developments in the Middle East, as well as in Afghanistan, careful attention should continuously be paid to Iraq's moves toward stability and self-help."

ZUMWALT